

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06579 01 OF 02 151916Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----151928Z 095032 /47

O R 151906Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7425
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06579

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EGEN, GW, GE, WB, UK
SUBJECT: NATO MINISTERIAL: SENIOR LEVEL MEETING
ON BERLIN AND GERMANY

REFS: (A) STATE 84817; (B) BONN 6499; (C) BONN 5229
(D) USBER 854

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PREPARA-
TIONS FOR THE MAY 7 SENIOR LEVEL MEETING, THE BONN
GROUP HAS DRAWN UP A REVISED AGENDA WHICH IS BEING
RECOMMENDED TO CAPITALS BY THE US, UK AND FRENCH
REPS AND REPORTED TO LONDON BY THE UK REP. THE BONN
GROUP SUGGESTS PREPARATION OF 2 AGREED PAPERS--AN
ASSESSMENT AND A PAPER ON BERLIN/EC PROBLEMS; NATIONAL
BRIEFINGS WILL BE USED IN PREPARATION FOR OTHER AGENDA
ITEMS. AS FOR THE ASSESSMENT, THE BONN GROUP WAS
DOUBTFUL THAT THE ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION
COULD BE TREATED IN A MEANINGFUL FASHION AT
THIS POINT, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE STUDY ON THE

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ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF BERLIN IS STILL IN ITS INITIAL
STAGES. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT'S REACTION TO THE
PROPOSED AGENDA AND SUGGESTED CONTENT FOR THE
ASSESSMENT. END SUMMARY

AGENDA

1. AT THE BONN GROUP MEETING ON APRIL 15, THE US REP REPORTED THE DEPT'S SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE ON AGENDA FOR THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING (REF A), AND FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) REPORTED REACTIONS FROM PARIS TO THE EARLIER BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF AGENDA. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, US REP SUGGESTED THAT THE AGENDA MIGHT BE THE FOLLOWING:

1. COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE
2. ASSESSMENT OF THE BERLIN SITUATION
3. BERLIN IN THE CONTEXT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS:
 - (A) ALLIED AND FRG RELATIONS WITH THE USSR;
 - (B) ALLIED/GDR RELATIONS;
 - (C) FRG/GDR RELATIONS.
4. BERLIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

2. THE REACTION OF THE FRG REP (HENZE) AND THE FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) WAS FAVORABLE. UK REP (EYERS) SAID THAT SINCE HE HAD ALREADY REPORTED TO LONDON AND REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE APRIL 13 BONN GROUP MEETING, HE WAS UNABLE TO EXPRESS A FIRM OPINION UNTIL INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE HARD TO GET AGREEMENT ON A COMMON PAPER FOR ITEM 3. THE US, FRENCH, AND FRG REPS WERE ALL OF THE OPINION THAT, IN VIEW OF DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON SOME OF THE ITEMS, NO COMMON PAPER WOULD BE PREPARED FOR ITEM 3, BUT THAT THE SENIOR LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES WOULD SPEAK TO THE TOPICS UNDER ITEM 3 ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL PAPERS. EYERS AGREED THAT,
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ON THAT BASIS, THE PROPOSED AGENDA WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UK. HE FELT UNABLE TO RECOMMEND IT, HOWEVER, AND COULD ONLY REPORT IT TO LONDON.

ASSESSMENT

3. DE BOISSIEU ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ASSESSMENT WHICH HE HAD PRESENTED AT THE APRIL 13 MEETING. EYERS SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL POINTS, BOTH OF LANGUAGE AND SUBSTANCE, WHICH HE THOUGHT THE UK WOULD FIND DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT AND NOTED THE USE OF THE WORDS "STATUS OF BERLIN" AS A TOPIC IN THE ASSESSMENT. MORE PARTICULARLY, HE THOUGHT THE FRENCH DRAFT WAS WEIGHTED TOO HEAVILY AT TAKING STRONG ACTION VIS-A-VIS THE GDR. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, THE US REP OFFERED TO PREPARE A REVISED DRAFT ON THE BASIS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL.

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DRAFT, WHICH CONCENTRATES ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT
GDR ACTIONS AFFECTING BERLIN AND ON IMPLICATIONS FOR
ALLIED AND FRG POLICY.

4. MUCH OF THE MEETING WAS TAKEN UP WITH A DISCUSSION
OF THE DEPT'S REQUEST THAT THE ASSESSMENT CONCENTRATE
ON POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE
BERLIN SITUATION. IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT THE
VIABILITY STUDY NOW UNDER WAY IN BERLIN AND IN THE
FRG GOVERNMENT (REFTELS C AND D) WOULD BE FAR
ENOUGH ALONG FOR INCLUSION IN THE ASSESSMENT, AND
CONSIDERABLE DOUBT WAS EXPRESSED AS TO THE ABILITY OF
THE BONN GROUP TO CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING MEANINGFUL ON
THE SUBJECT AT THIS STAGE. DE BOISSIEU COMMENTED
THAT COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OF ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGI-
CAL TOPICS WOULD BE PREMATURE, AND HENZE ECHOED
STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF'S STATEMENT TO THE ALLIED
AMBASSADORS (REFTEL B) THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT MUCH
OF SUBSTANCE WOULD BE READY IN TIME FOR THE LONDON
MEETING. HENZE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SUPERFICIAL AND
MISLEADING TO HAVE ONLY INITIAL PARTS OF THE STUDY

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CONSIDERED AT THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING.

5. THE US, FRG AND FRENCH REPS THUS CONCLUDED THAT THE BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO GIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ASSESSMENT ONLY A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION, NOTING THE IMPORTANCE THEREOF, AND TO STATE THAT A THOROUGH STUDY WAS BEING PREPARED. EYERS, AGAIN CITING THE FACT THAT HE HAD ALREADY SOUGHT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE EARLIER PROPOSED AGENDA, SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO EXPRESS AN AUTHORITATIVE OPINION. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE UK MIGHT PREFER AN ASSESSMENT WHICH CONCENTRATED ON PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS RATHER THAN ON POLITICAL ONES. (COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THIS IS AT LEAST IN PART BECAUSE THE UK FINDS ITSELF IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE US AND FRANCE AS TO WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO RECENT GDR MEASURES AND DOES NOT RELISH HAVING TO DEFEND ITS POSITION AT THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING.) EYERS DID NOT SUGGEST HOW AN ECONOMIC/ PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT COULD BE PRODUCED ON SHORT NOTICE.

BERLIN AND THE EC

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT A COMMON PAPER WOULD BE NEEDED FOR AGENDA ITEM 4. THE BONN GROUP HAS BEFORE IT A FRENCH DRAFT WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK.

NAC BRIEFING

7. HENZE EXPRESSED THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE BONN GROUP WOULD AGAIN BE ASKED TO PREPARE A BRIEFING FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AND ASKED WHETHER THE ASSESSMENT BASED ON THE FRENCH DRAFT WOULD BE SUITABLE. THE GENERAL VIEW WAS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE, BUT DE BOISSIEU SAID THAT HE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A SECOND
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PAPER WHICH HE WILL PRESENT NEXT WEEK AND WHICH CAN BE A BASIS FOR THE NATO BRIEFING PAPER.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT'S REACTION TO THE PROPOSED AGENDA AND TO THE SUGGESTED TREATMENT OF THE ASSESSMENT.
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